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Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is the utility patent application of:

Inventor: DANIEL L. POOLE; ROBERT N. POOLE
Entitled: CLAMP DEVICE

Enclosed are:

X 25 sheets of specification and claimsX 7 sheet(s) of drawings and 3 copies of same

..... An Assignment of the invention to:.....

X Declaration and Power of Attorney (x)Executed ()UnexecutedX Verified statement to establish Small Entity Status under 37 CFR 1.9 and 37 CFR 1.27X Information Disclosure StatementX Also enc.: Information Disclosure Citation and 2 cited references

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INDEP CLAIMS:	2 - 3 =	0	X 39 = \$	or	X 78 = \$	0
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11/30/99
Date

Respectfully submitted,

Robert A. Parsons
Robert A. Parsons, Reg. No. 32,713

11/30/99
JC662 U.S. PTO

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JC525 U.S. PTO
09/451580

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Daniel L. Poole)
Robert N. Poole)
Serial No.:)
Filed: Herewith)
Title: CLAMP DEVICE)

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademark
Washington, D.C. 20231

"Express Mail" mailing label number: EL386865835US
Date of Deposit: 30 November 1999

Dear Sir:

I hereby certify that the attached Application Transmittal Form; Declaration and Power of Attorney, executed; Small Entity Statement, executed; Information Disclosure Statement; Information Disclosure Citation and two (2) cited reference; Application: Specification, eighteen (18) pages; Claims, six (6) pages; Abstract, one (1) page; seven (7) sheet(s) informal drawings and three (3) copies of same; check for appropriate fee; and a postcard are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" under 37 CFR 1.10 addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, Box PATENT APPLICATION on 30 November 1999.

Heidi Eckroth
Signature

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30 November 1999
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Respectfully submitted,

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Serial or Patent No.: Attorney's Reg. No.: 32,713
Filed or Issued: Herewith Docket No.: 3339-PA13
For: CLAMP DEVICE

**VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY
STATUS (37 CFR 1.9(f) and 1.27(b))--INDEPENDENT INVENTOR**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the invention entitled CLAMP DEVICE

described in

☒ the specification filed herewith
_____ application serial no. _____, filed _____.
_____ patent no. _____, issued _____.

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

☒ no such person, concern, or organization
_____ persons, concerns or organizations listed below*

*NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

FULL NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
____ Individual ____ Small Business Concern ____ Nonprofit Organization

FULL NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
____ Individual ____ Small Business Concern ____ Nonprofit Organization

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

Daniel L. Poole
Name of Inventor


Signature of Inventor

11-30-99
Date

Robert N. Poole
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CLAMP DEVICE

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CLAMP DEVICE

1 CLAMP DEVICE

2

3 This application claims the benefit of U.S.
4 Provisional Application 60/132,266, filed 03 May 1999.

5

6 FIELD OF THE INVENTION

7

8 This invention relates generally to clamping devices,
9 and more particularly to clamping devices which can be
10 manipulated with one hand.

11

12 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

13

14 Clamping devices are well known and have been in use
15 for many years. Particularly, straight bar friction
16 locking clamps are extremely popular. These clamp devices
17 can be operated one handed, and are very effective. The
18 problem with these devices is that they operate in a linear
19 fashion, with the clamping jaws sliding directly toward and
20 away from one another. This structure presents some
21 limitations such as limiting access of the clamp in tight
22 spots, etc.

1 Often, pliers are used to clamp items together because
2 the motion of the handles permits their use in closer
3 spaces. The problem with pliers is that the user must
4 maintain the pressure on the handles, as they do not remain
5 locked in position. Locking pliers using friction locks
6 have been introduced, but while they will lock into a
7 specific configuration, they will not clamp unless the
8 material to be clamped is resilient. When rigid items are
9 to be clamped, the clamping jaws will close to the surface
10 of the item but will not hold it securely.

11
12 Accordingly, it would be highly desirable to provide
13 an improved clamp device.

14
15 It is a purpose of the present invention to provide a
16 clamp device which can be operated with one hand.

17
18 It is another purpose of the present invention to
19 provide a clamp device which will securely hold a rigid
20 item.

21
22 It is still another purpose of the present invention
23 to provide a clamp device with a release trigger which
24 remains in position.

1 It is a further purpose of the present invention to
2 provide a clamp device which can be operated in confined
3 spaces.

1 and having an aperture with the arcuate clamp bar extending
2 therethrough. The break lever is movable laterally between
3 the frictionally engaged position, frictionally engaging
4 the arcuate clamp bar, and the disengaged position, and is
5 substantially motionless longitudinally.

1 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

2
3 Specific objects and advantages of the instant
4 invention will become readily apparent to those skilled in
5 the art from the following detailed description of a
6 preferred embodiment thereof taken in conjunction with the
7 drawings, in which:

8
9 FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a clamp device in
10 accordance with the present invention, hidden portions
11 illustrated in broken lines for clarity;

12
13 FIG. 2 is a plan view of a snap-on jaw portion broken
14 away to illustrate pivotal movement;

15
16 FIG. 3 is a plan view of a clamp bar of the clamp
17 device of FIG. 1;

18
19 FIG. 4 is a side elevational view of a brake lever of
20 the clamp device of FIG. 1;

21
22 FIG. 5 is a plan view of the clamp device of FIG. 1
23 with the brake lever in an inoperative mode, portions
24 thereof broken away;

1 FIG. 6 is a plan view of the clamp device of FIG. 1 as
2 it appears in the closed position, hidden portions
3 illustrated in broken lines for clarity;

4
5 FIG. 7 is a plan view of another embodiment of a clamp
6 device in the closed position according to the present
7 invention, hidden portions illustrated in broken lines for
8 clarity;

9
10 FIG. 8 is a plan view of a clamp bar of the clamp
11 device of FIG. 7;

12
13 FIG. 9 is a side elevational view of a brake lever of
14 the clamp device of FIG. 7;

15
16 FIG. 10 is a perspective view of the clamp device of
17 FIG. 7 as it appears in an open position, hidden portions
18 illustrated in broken lines for clarity;

19
20 FIG. 11 is a perspective view of another embodiment of
21 a clamp device according to the present invention;

1 FIG. 12 is a perspective view of yet another
2 embodiment of a clamp device according to the present
3 invention; and

4

5 FIG. 13 is a plan view of a further embodiment of a
6 clamp device according to the present invention.

1 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

2

3

4 Turning now to the drawings in which like reference

5 characters indicate corresponding elements throughout the

6 several views, attention is first directed to FIG. 1, which

7 illustrates a clamp device generally designated 20. Clamp

8 device 20 includes a pair of members 22 and 23 pivotally

9 connected by a pivot 24 (bolt, rivet, screw, etc.) for

10 pivotal opposed operation (i.e. scissors like motion).

11 Member 22 includes a handle portion 25 and a jaw portion 26

12 generally determined by pivot 24. Similarly, member 23

13 includes a handle portion 27 and a jaw portion 28 generally

14 determined by pivot 24. The distal end of jaw portion 26

15 has a snap-on gripping member 30 pivotally coupled thereto

16 (see FIG. 2 for pivotal action). The distal end of jaw

17 portion 28 has a snap-on gripping member 31 pivotally

18 coupled thereto (illustrated in an unsnapped position for

19 clarity). Included in this embodiment is an optional

20 spring 35 which is carried by pivot 24 with outwardly

21 extending ends which engage handle portions 25 and 27 to

22 bias clamp device 20 into the open position illustrated in

23 FIG. 1. Spring 35 can be omitted allowing clamp device 20

1 to be operated similar to conventional pliers with manual
2 opening and closing.

3

4 In accordance with the present invention, clamp device
5 20 further has a locking assembly 40 including a clamp bar
6 42 and a brake lever 43. Clamp bar 42 is an elongate
7 arcuate design (see FIG. 3) with a coupled end 44 pivotally
8 attached to handle portion 25 by a roll pin 45 (or any
9 convenient mechanism to allow limited movement) permitting
10 relative pivotal movement. A free end 46 of clamp bar 42
11 extends unhindered through or adjacent to handle portion
12 27, allowing free relative movement of handle portions 25
13 and 27. It should be understood that clamp bar 42 can be
14 received in a groove or aperture 50 formed in handle
15 portion 27. It should also be understood that clamp bar 42
16 has an arcuate shape to correspond to the pivotal movement
17 of elements 22 and 23, and is positioned to be
18 substantially parallel to pivot 24, i.e. the arc of clamp
19 bar 42 is concentric with pivot 24. However, slight
20 variation will still operate.

21

22 Brake lever 43 has an aperture 52 formed therethrough
23 proximate a pivotal end 53. Clamp bar 42 is slideably
24 received through aperture 52 with pivotal end 53 of brake

1 lever 43 pivotally engaged in a notch 54 formed in handle
2 portion 27 proximate pivot 24. A compression spring 55 is
3 positioned between brake lever 43 and handle portion 27 so
4 as to bias brake lever 43 outwardly away from handle
5 portion 27 and frictionally engage clamp bar 42 at aperture
6 52. Brake lever 43 is moveable between a frictionally
7 engaged (locking) position and a disengaged position. In
8 the frictionally engaged position brake lever 43
9 frictionally engages clamp bar 42 preventing movement
10 thereof and thereby preventing opening of clamp device 20
11 without preventing the closing thereof, i.e. locking
12 assembly 40 prevents clamp device 20 from opening but
13 allows it to be closed or clamped to an object. Here it
14 should be noted that spring 55 normally biases brake lever
15 43 into the frictionally engaged (locked) position (as
16 illustrated in FIG. 1). In the disengaged position brake
17 lever 43 has been moved toward handle portion 27 against
18 the bias of spring 55 removing the frictional engagement
19 between brake lever 43 and clamp bar 42, permitting clamp
20 bar 42 to move freely through aperture 52. Thus, clamp
21 device 20 can be opened. A latch 60 is slideably mounted
22 in handle portion 27 so as to be selectively engagable with
23 a free end 61 of brake lever 43, holding brake lever 43 in
24 the disengaged position (see FIG. 5) and able to operate as

1 conventional pliers. Turning to FIG. 6, clamp device 20 is
2 shown in a closed position. Because the curvature of clamp
3 bar 42 is concentric with pivot 24, break lever 43 does not
4 move longitudinally. This permits the use of latch 60 and
5 aperture 52 more closely sized to match the width of clamp
6 bar 42.

7
8 Referring now to FIGS. 7-10, another embodiment of
9 clamp device generally designated 120 is illustrated.
10 Clamp device 120 includes a pair of members 122 and 123
11 pivotally connected by a pivot 124 (bolt, rivet, screw,
12 etc) for pivotal opposed operation (i.e. scissors like
13 motion). Member 122 includes a handle portion 125 and a
14 jaw portion 126 generally determined by pivot 124.
15 Similarly, member 123 includes a handle portion 127 and a
16 jaw portion 128 generally determined by pivot 124. The
17 distal end of jaw portion 126 preferably has a snap-on
18 gripping member 130 pivotally coupled thereto although this
19 may be omitted. The distal end of jaw portion 128 has a
20 snap-on gripping member 131 pivotally coupled thereto
21 although this may be omitted if gripping member 130 is
22 omitted. Included in this embodiment is an optional spring
23 135 which is carried by pivot 124 with outwardly extending
24 ends which engage handle portions 125 and 127 to bias clamp

1 device 120 into the open position illustrated in FIG. 10.
2 Spring 135 can be omitted allowing clamp device 120 to be
3 operated similar to conventional pliers with manual opening
4 and closing.

5
6 In accordance with the present invention, clamp device
7 120 further has a locking assembly 140 including a clamp
8 bar 142 and a brake lever 143. Clamp bar 142 is an
9 elongate arcuate design (see FIG. 8) with a coupled end 144
10 pivotally attached to handle portion 125 by a roll pin 145
11 (or any convenient mechanism to allow limited movement)
12 permitting relative pivotal movement to insure
13 concentricity of the arc to pivot 124. A free end 146 of
14 clamp bar 142 extends unhindered through or adjacent to
15 handle portion 127, allowing free relative movement of
16 handle portions 125 and 127. In this specific embodiment,
17 handle portion 127 is hollow, and a pair of parallel spaced
18 apart roll pin guides 156 contained therein receive clamp
19 bar 142 slideably therebetween. In this fashion, instead
20 of clamp bar 142 extending beyond the handle in the closed
21 position it is contained within the hollow and thickened
22 handle portion 127.

1 In each of the previously described embodiments, clamp
2 devices 20 and 120 are preferably formed of a flexible
3 material such as plastic. While rigid materials such as
4 metal may be employed, the clamping operation will not be
5 as effective unless the metal is flexible. By flexing in
6 an outward direction under pressure from the item being
7 clamped, the jaw portions of members 22 and 23 of device 20
8 and members 122 and 123 of device 120 form a tension system
9 which permits a tight clamping action by their bias in the
10 inward direction. In the same manner, the handle portions
11 of the members flex in an inward direction as compression
12 is applied, and bias outwardly upon release of the
13 compression force, placing pressure upon the jaw portions.

14
15 Turning now to FIG. 11, a further embodiment of a
16 clamp device generally designated 220 is illustrated.
17 Device 220 is substantially similar to devices 20 and 120,
18 and in fact can be identical with the addition of clip
19 springs 202 and 203 attached to members 222 and 223 at the
20 distal ends of jaw portions 226 and 228 respectively.
21 Thus, members 222 and 223 can be formed of a rigid material
22 such as steel having no flex, with the flex provided by
23 spring clips 202 and 203. In this manner a tension system
24 providing a strong clamping action is achieved. However,

1 in this embodiment, clips 202,203 can be removed. Clamp
2 device 220 can be constructed of a resilient and flexible
3 material such as spring steel. In this manner, jaw
4 portions 226 and 228 can form a tension system as
5 previously described. Furthermore, members 222 and 223
6 include handle portions 225 and 227, respectively. Handle
7 portions 225 and 227 can also be formed of a flexible and
8 resilient material. To enhance the flexibility, the
9 handles can be hollowed as shown. This provides the
10 flexibility and shape memory required to form a tension
11 system as described previously.

12

13 Referring to FIG. 12, another embodiment of a clamping
14 device generally designated 320 is illustrated. Again,
15 device 320 is substantially identical to the previously
16 described embodiments, including a pair of members 322 and
17 323 pivotally connected by a pivot 324 (bolt, rivet, screw,
18 etc) for pivotal opposed operation (i.e. scissors like
19 motion). Member 322 includes a handle portion 325 and a
20 jaw portion 326 generally determined by pivot 324.
21 Similarly, member 323 includes a handle portion 327 and a
22 jaw portion 328 generally determined by pivot 324. A flex
23 in members 322 and 323 is provided by a pivot joint 302
24 formed in jaw portion 326. The slight pivot is biased by

1 compression spring 303 carried at pivot joint 302 to force
2 the distal ends of jaw portions 326 and 328 toward one
3 another in an inward direction. During a clamping
4 operation, as jaw portions 326 and 328 are brought toward
5 one another into contact with an item to be clamped, the
6 terminal ends are moved outward against the bias of spring
7 303 bringing the whole structure under tension and forming
8 a strong clamping action. It should be understood that a
9 pivot joint and compression spring can also be installed on
10 jaw portion 328.

11
12 With reference to FIG. 13, another embodiment of a
13 clamp device generally designated 420 is illustrated.
14 Clamp device 420 is substantially identical to the previous
15 embodiments, including a pair of members 422 and 423
16 pivotally connected by a pivot 424 (bolt, rivet, screw,
17 etc.) for pivotal opposed operation (i.e. scissors like
18 motion). Member 422 includes a handle portion 425 and a
19 jaw portion 426 generally determined by pivot 424.
20 Similarly, member 423 includes a handle portion 427 and a
21 jaw portion 428 generally determined by pivot 424. Clamp
22 device 420 further has a locking assembly 440 including a
23 clamp bar 442 and a brake lever 443. The difference
24 between this embodiment and previous embodiments, is that

1 jaw portions 426 and 428 are coupled to handle portions 425
2 and 427 at substantially right angles thereto. Thus the
3 jaws portions extend substantially perpendicularly from
4 pivot 424 with respect to the handle portions. Any of the
5 variously disclosed tension systems may be employed in
6 clamp device 420.

7
8 Various changes and modifications to the embodiments
9 herein chosen for purposes of illustration will readily
10 occur to those skilled in the art. For example, while the
11 arcuate clamp bars are illustrated coupled at one end by a
12 pin, it will be understood that the clamp bars may be
13 coupled by being integrally formed with one of the handle
14 portions, adhered thereto or welded, etc. To the extent
15 that such modifications and variations do not depart from
16 the spirit of the invention, they are intended to be
17 included within the scope thereof which is assessed only by
18 a fair interpretation of the claims.

19
20 Having fully described the invention in such clear and
21 concise terms as to enable those skilled in the art to
22 understand and practice the same, the invention claimed is:

CLAIMS

1. A clamp device comprising:

a first member having a handle portion and a jaw portion;

a second member having a handle portion and a jaw portion;

a pivot pivotally coupling the first member and the second member intermediate their respective handle portion and jaw portion for opposed pivotal motion;

an arcuate clamp bar having a first end coupled to the first member and a second end, an arc of the arcuate clamp bar being concentric with the pivot; and

a break lever having an end pivotally coupled to the second member and having an aperture with the arcuate clamp bar extending therethrough, the break lever movable laterally between a

frictionally engaged position, frictionally engaging the arcuate clamp bar and a disengaged position, and substantially motionless longitudinally.

2. A clamp device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the arcuate clamp bar extends into the handle portion of the second member.

3. A clamp device as claimed in claim 2 further includes guide members carried by the handle portion of the second member guiding the arcuate clamp bar therethrough.

4. A clamp device as claimed in claim 1 further including a latch carried by the handle portion of the second member, the latch movable between an open position permitting the breaking lever to move to the frictionally engaged position and a closed position in which the break lever is held in the disengaged position.

5. A clamp device as claimed in claim 1 wherein at least one of the jaw portions of the first member and the second member is flexible in an outward direction and biased in an inward direction.

6. A clamp device as claimed in claim 5 wherein a portion of at least one of the jaw portions of the first member and the second member flex in an outward direction and are biased in an inward direction.

7. A clamp device as claimed in claim 6 wherein the portion of at least one of the jaw portions of the first member and the second member includes a spring clip.

8. A clamp device as claimed in claim 6 wherein the portion of at least one of the jaw portions of the first member and the second member includes a pivot joint biased in the inward direction.

9. A clamp device as claimed in claim 1 wherein at least one of the handle portions of the first member and the second member is flexible in an inward direction and biased in an outward direction.

10. A clamp device comprising:

a first member having a handle portion and a jaw portion, one of the jaw portion flexible in an outward direction and biased in an inward direction and the handle portion flexible in an inward direction and biased in an outward direction;

a second member having a handle portion and a jaw portion;

a pivot pivotally coupling the first member and the second member intermediate their respective handle portion and jaw portion for opposed pivotal motion between an open position and a closed position; and

a locking assembly having a frictionally engaged position preventing the first member and the second member from moving toward the open position and a disengaged position allowing the first member and the second member to move toward the open position.

11. A clamp device as claimed in claim 10 wherein a portion of at least one of the jaw portions of the first member and the second member flex in an outward direction and are biased in an inward direction.

12. A clamp device as claimed in claim 11 wherein the portion of at least one of the jaw portions of the first member and the second member includes a spring clip.

13. A clamp device as claimed in claim 11 wherein the portion of each of the jaw portions of the first member and the second member includes a pivot joint biased in the inward direction.

14. A clamp device as claimed in claim 10 wherein the locking assembly comprises:

an arcuate clamp bar having a first end coupled to the first member and a second end, an arc of the arcuate clamp bar being concentric with the pivot; and

a break lever having an end pivotally coupled to the second member and having an aperture with the

arcuate clamp bar extending therethrough, the break lever movable laterally between the frictionally engaged position, frictionally engaging the arcuate clamp bar and the disengaged position, and being substantially motionless longitudinally.

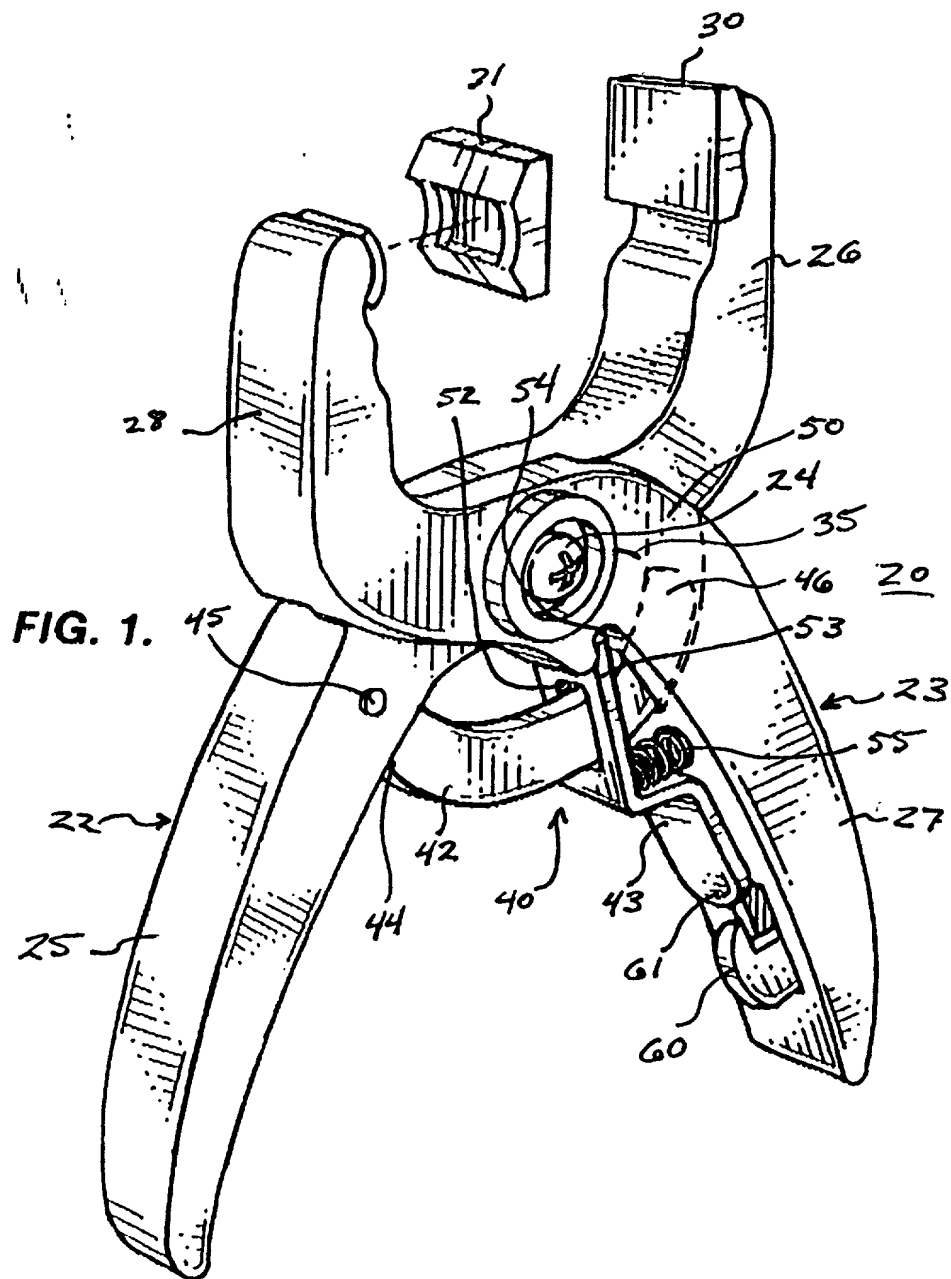
15. A clamp device as claimed in claim 14 wherein the arcuate clamp bar extends into the handle portion of the second member.

16. A clamp device as claimed in claim 15 further includes guide members carried by the handle portion of the second member guiding the arcuate clamp bar therethrough.

17. A clamp device as claimed in claim 14 further including a latch carried by the handle portion of the second member, the latch movable between an open position permitting the breaking lever to move to the frictionally engaged position and a closed position in which the break lever is held in the disengaged position.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A clamp device including first and second members each having a handle portion and a jaw portion, the jaw portion flexible in an outward direction and biased in an inward direction. A pivot pivotally coupling the first member and the second member for opposed pivotal motion and a locking assembly having a frictionally engaged position preventing opening of the clamp device and a disengaged position allowing opening of the device.



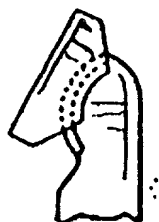


FIG. 2.

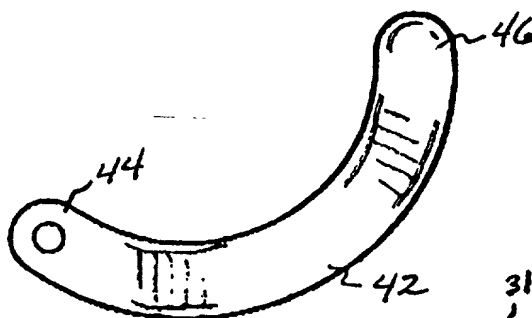


FIG. 3.

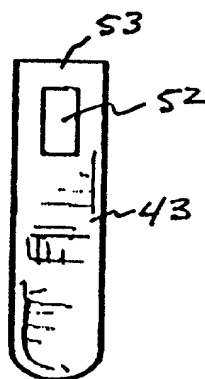


FIG. 4.

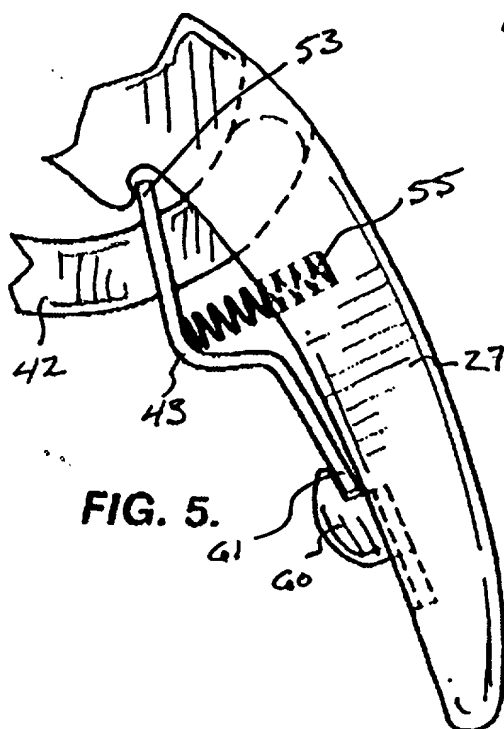


FIG. 5.

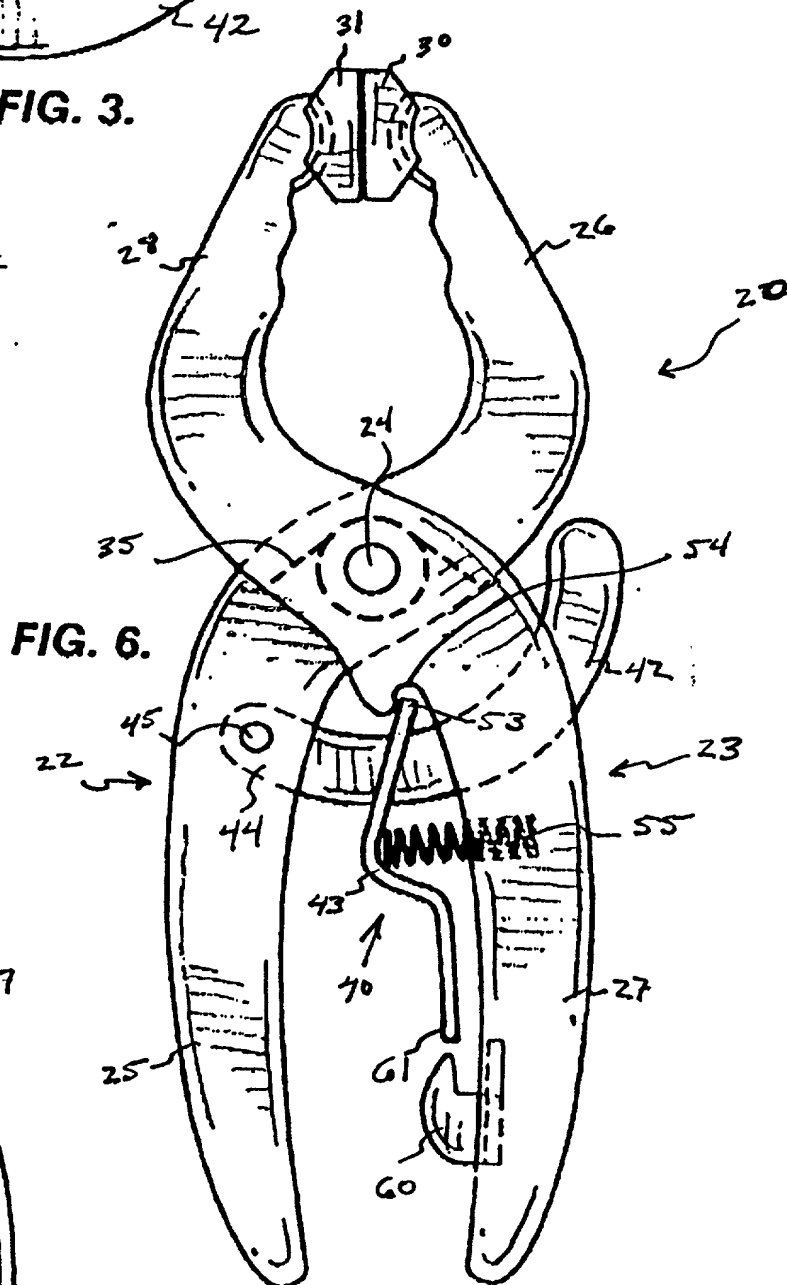


FIG. 6.

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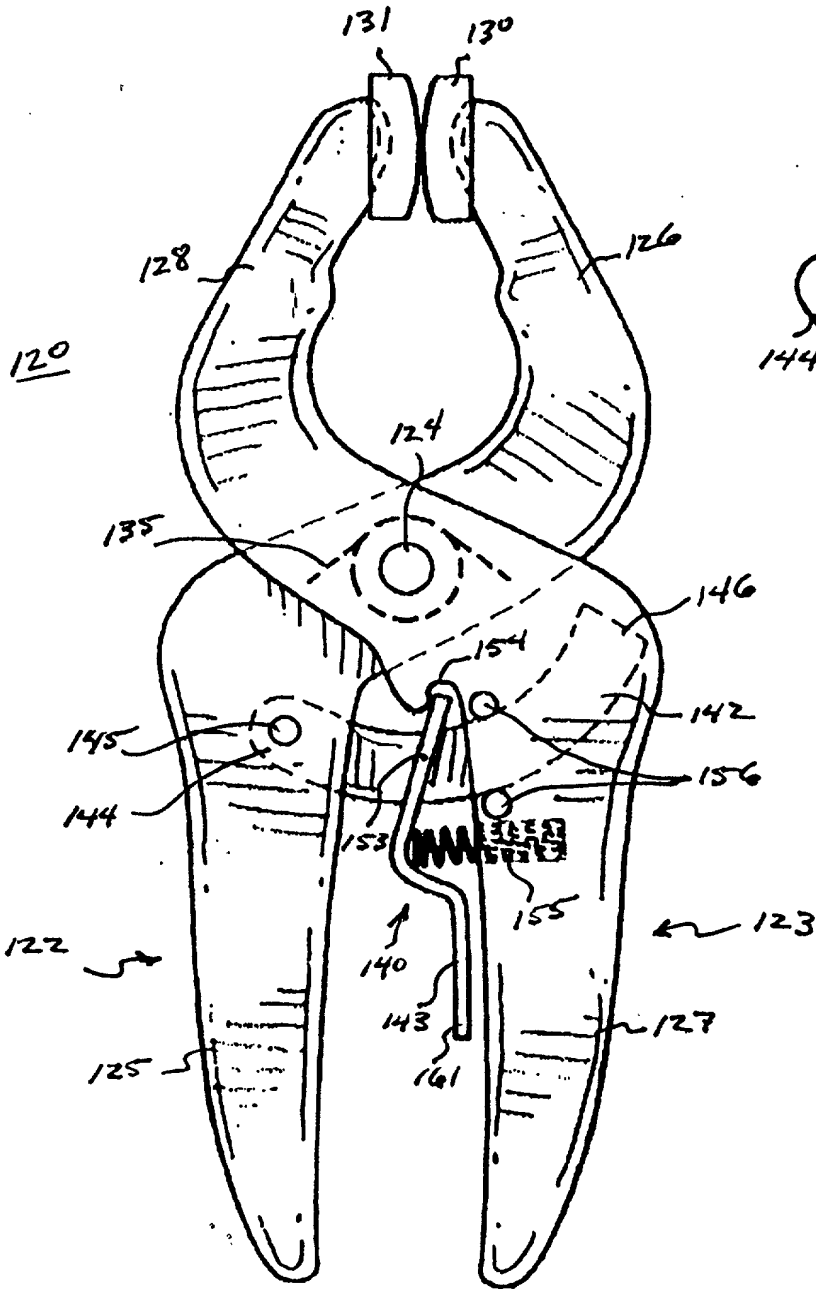


FIG. 7.

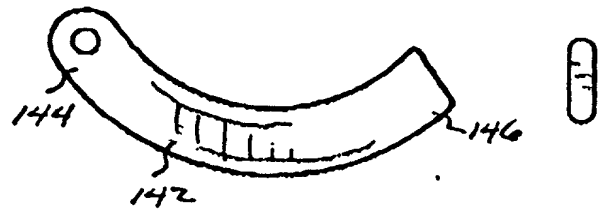


FIG. 8.

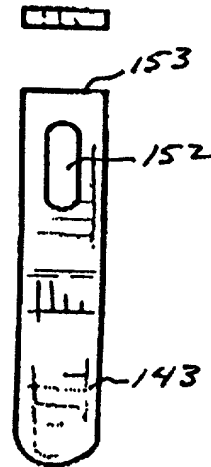
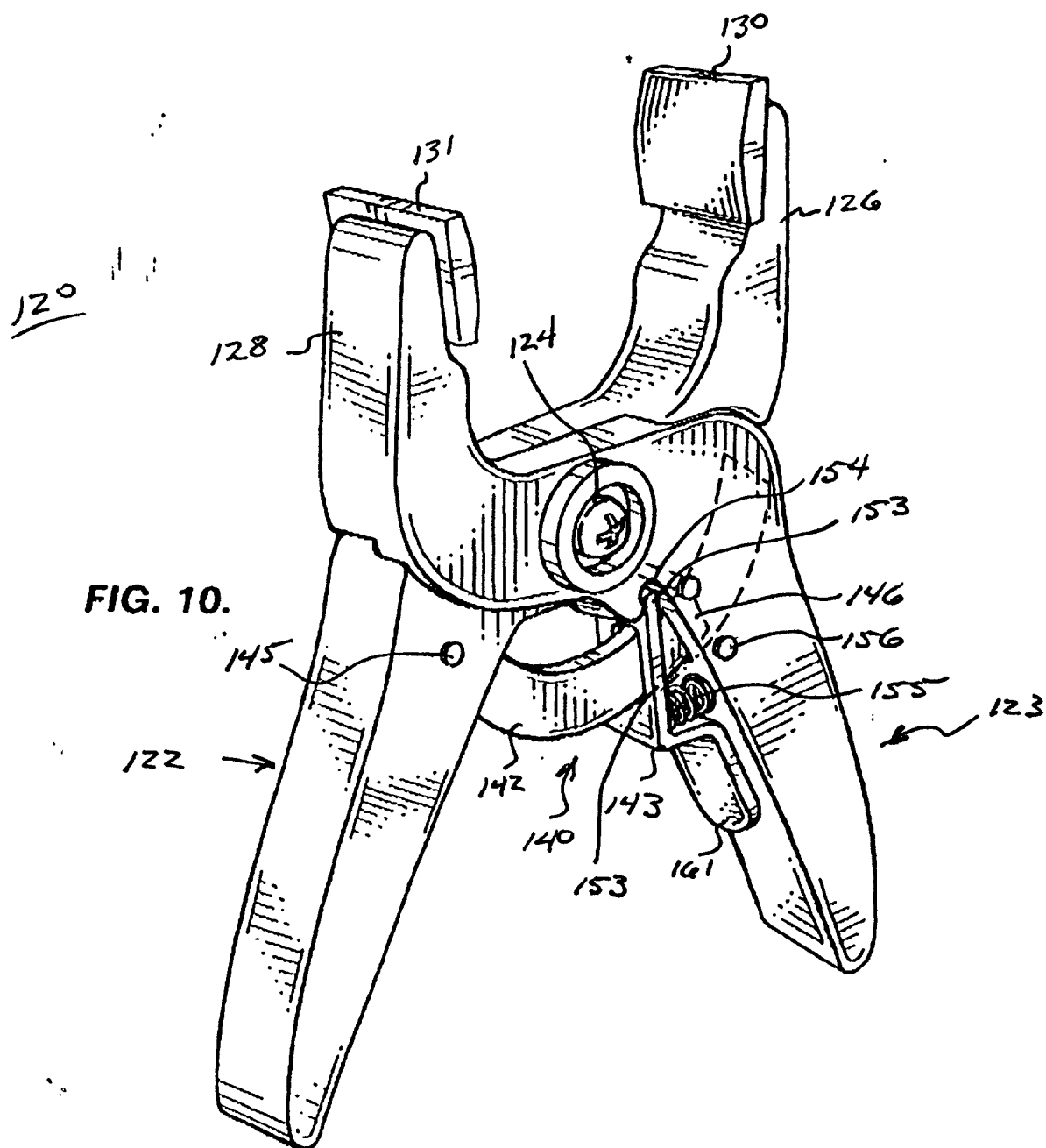


FIG. 9.



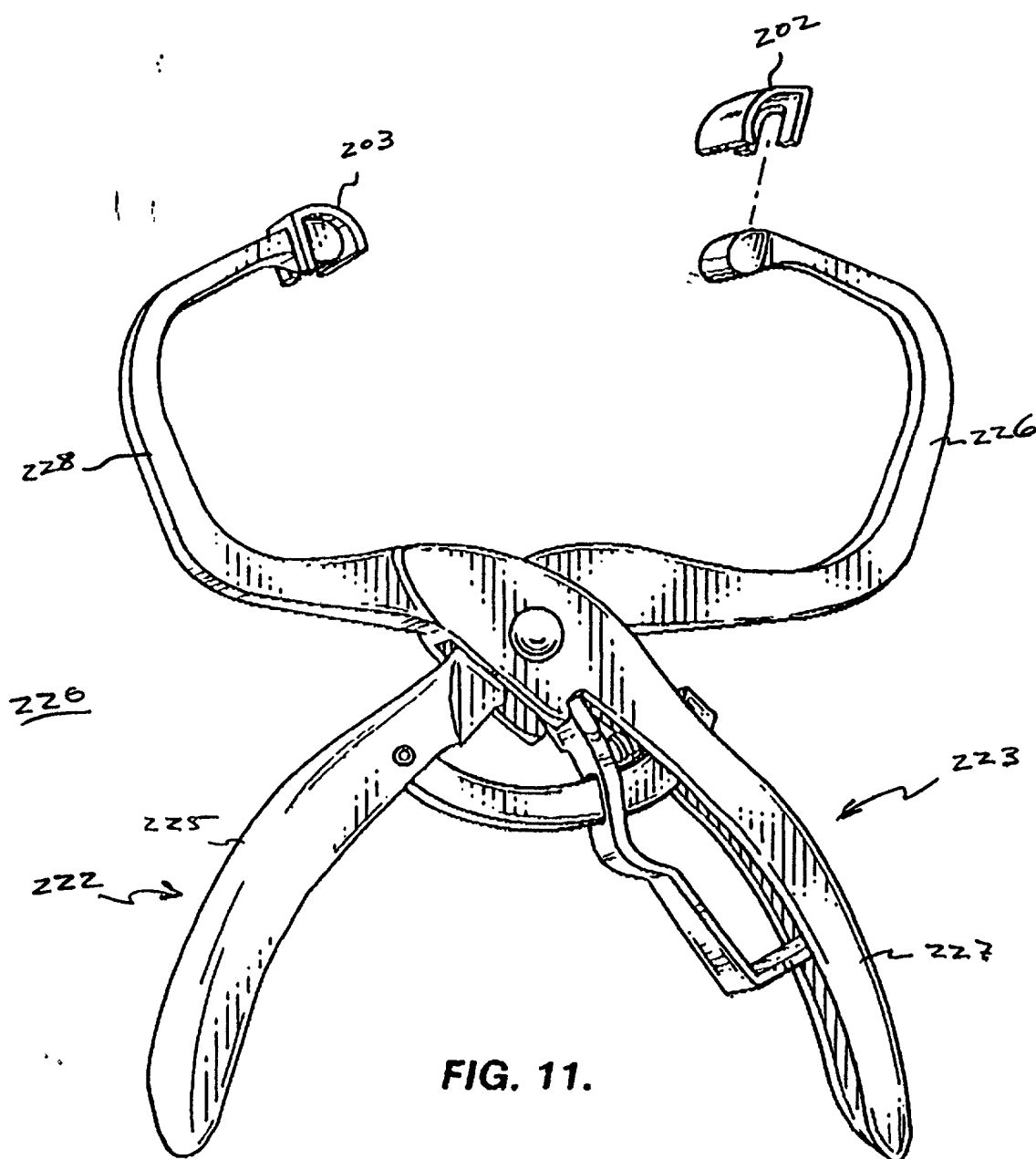


FIG. 11.

602-897-8674

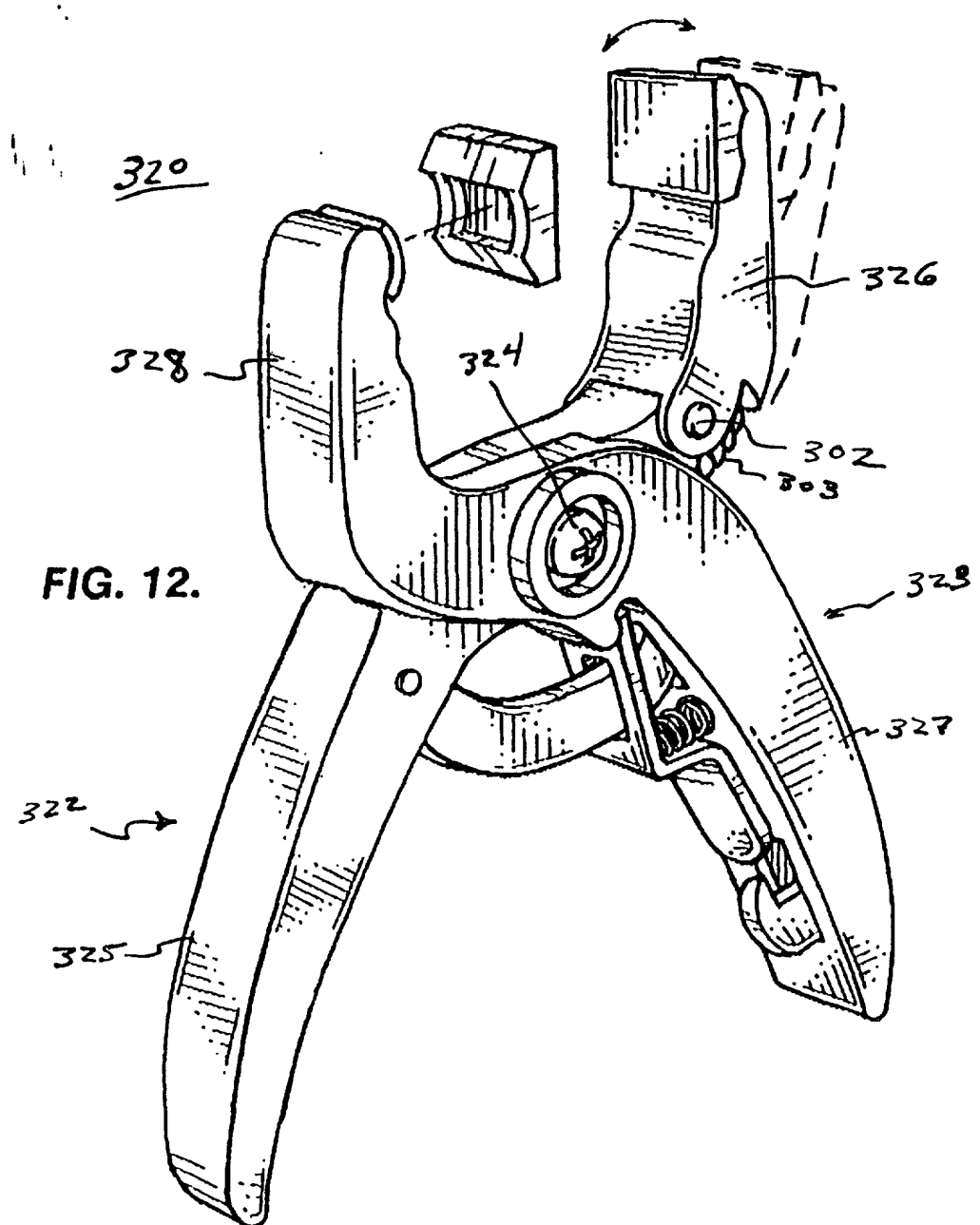
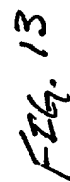


FIG. 12.



DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled *CLAMP DEVICE* (RAP Docket Number 3339-PA13) the specification of which:

 x is attached hereto.

 was filed on as Application

Serial No. and was amended on
(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)			Priority Claimed	
			Yes	No
<u> </u> (Number)	<u> </u> (Country)	<u> </u> (Day/Mo./Yr. Filed)		
<u> </u> (Number)	<u> </u> (Country)	<u> </u> (Day/Mo./Yr. Filed)	Yes	No
<u> </u> (Number)	<u> </u> (Country)	<u> </u> (Day/Mo./Yr. Filed)	Yes	No

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States applications(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States Application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Applic. S/N) (Filing Date) (Status--pend., pat., abandoned)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code § 119(e) to U.S. Provisional Application Serial Number 60/132,266, filed 03 May 1999.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. (list name and registration number)

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